

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A process for collecting bacteria adhered to the intestinal wall of a subject, characterized in that said collection is carried out by means of a colonoscopy through brushes adapted to cell collection A process for collecting bacteria adhered to the intestinal wall comprising the steps of carrying out a colonoscopy with brushes adapted for cell collection and collecting bacteria adhered to the intestinal wall, wherein the collection is carried out in various segments of the bowels by means of individual brushes.

2. (original) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that said brushes are connected to conventional colonoscopy equipment.

3-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that each strain the strains collected are cultured and analysed separately.

7. (previously presented) A process for isolating bacterial strains, comprising collecting said strains according to claim 1.

8. (currently amended) Use of probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1, for preparing medicaments to treat and/or prevent the alterations of the intestinal microflora A method for preparing a medicament to treat and/or prevent alterations of the intestinal microflora comprising the steps of providing one or more probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1 and using said strain or strains to prepare said medicament.

9. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical compositions comprising probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1, to treat and/or prevent the alterations of the intestinal microflora.

10. (previously presented) A probiotic food comprising probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1.
11. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein the segments of the intestinal wall consist of the distal ileum, right colon, transverse colon, left colon and sigma.
12. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein the individual brushes are 5.
13. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein the biopsy channel is washed with saline before introducing each of said individual brushes.